

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01648 01 OF 03 221640Z

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 TRSE-00 OES-06 /119 W

-----221802Z 041153 /43

O R 221548Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1013

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 AMMAN 1648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, IS, US, XF

SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 054825, (B) STATE 059720, (C) TEL AVIV 1838

1. WITH THE RETURN OF ABDULLAH A DAY OR SO AGO WE NOW HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS REF A, WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, ABDULLAH, AND HANNA ODEH. REF (A) PROMPTED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON OUR PART AND WE WERE ANXIOUS TO RAISE THEM IN HOPES OF DEFINING THE JORDANIAN POSITION ON THESE ISSUES AS PRECISELY AS POSSIBLE FOR ISRAELI COMMENT AT THIS STAGE. DURING MEETING WE BRIEFLY REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED REF (A) COMMENTS RELATING TO THE ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUE IN RELATION TO DEAD SEA, AND THE WEST BANK WATER REQUIREMENTS ABOUT WHICH LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS ADDED. MOST OF DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND (A) WATER REQUIREMENTS /AVAILABILITY FOR THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE, (B) WATER QUALITY AND (C) THE METHOD OF DIVERTING WATER INTO THE EAST GHOR CANAL.

2. WATER REQUIREMENTS AND QUALITY FOR YARMOUK TRIANGLE.

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 01648 01 OF 03 221640Z

THE INTERIM HARZA REPORT ESSENTIALLY CONTAINS ONLY AVERAGE ANNUAL FLOW DATA AND DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CONTINGENCY OF BELOW AVERAGE YEARS. WHILE COMPARING THE AVERAGE AVAILABILITY WITH ANNUAL REQUIREMENT SUPPORTS THE JORDANIAN POSITION DESCRIBED PARA 6A AND B IN REF A, WE WERE THEREFORE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT WITH FULL CONTROL OF THE YARMOUK AND

WITH MAXIMUM IRRIGATION IN THE EAST GHOR THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN ASSURING YARMOUK TRIANGLE NEEDS DURING BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL YEARS. ABDULLAH STATED THE FIGURES IN THE FIRST REPORT WILL DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM THE INTERIM REPORT AND ASSURES US THAT SOME WATER WILL BE PROVIDED THE TRIANGLE IN BELOW AVERAGE YEARS. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE FINAL REPORT FOR CLARIFICATION.

3. WE ALSO WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN REVIEWING THE JORDANIAN POSITION ON YARMOUK WATER RIGHTS IN YEARS OF BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL, WHEN THE TOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR YARMOUK WATERS CANNOT BE MET. THE ISRAELIS CERTAINLY WILL RAISE THIS QUESTION AND WE FELT IT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE DISCUSSIONS THIS MONTH.

4. OUR DISCUSSIONS SUGGEST SOME RECASTING OF PARAS 6A AND B. AS MENTIONED IN REF A, UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE MAQARIN DAM, PERHAPS 5 TO 7 YEARS HENCE, YARMOUK WATERS SIMPLY WILL NOT BE EFFECTED BY THE DAM. EVEN AFTER THE DAM IS COMPLETED, MORE THAN 40 MCM OF UNCONTROLLED WATER WILL FLOW PAST THE E. GHOR INTAKE EVEN DURING AVERAGE RAINFALL YEARS FOR POTENTIAL USE IN THE TRIANGLE. (FYI: WE NOTE THAT AVAILABILITY OF HIS WATER DEPENDS TO SOME EXTENT ON SYRIAN CONCURRENCE. END FYI.) NOT UNTIL THE SECOND STAGE WITH ANOTHER DAM DOWNSTREAM WILL ALL YARMOUK WATERS BE CONTROLLED. IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 AMMAN 01648 01 OF 03 221640Z

THE INTERIM ON AN AVERAGE ANNUAL YEAR BASIS MORE WATER WOULD PASS THE INTAKE THAN IS NEEDED IN THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE AND THUS ISRAELI PUMPING INVESTMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USEFUL UNTIL THE SECOND STAGE, WHEN A FINAL RESOLUTION OF ALL ISSUES WOULD BE NECESSARY. (POSSIBLY IN CONTEXT OF A PEACE AGREEMENT).

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01648 02 OF 03 221654Z  
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
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O R 221548Z MAR 77  
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 AMMAN 1648

5. WITH REGARD TO THE FOUR MONTHS OF HIGH IRRIGATION REQUIREMENTS IN TRIANGLE AND LOW FLOW PERIODS OF THE YARMOUK, THE JORDANIANS INDICATED THAT 17 MCM WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRIANGLE IN AVERAGE YEARS. THIS WATER WOULD BE SUPPLIED BY RELEASES FROM THE DAM IF REQUIRED (WHICH SEEMS HIGHLY LIKELY). QUALITY OF WATER DURING THESE PERIODS WOULD BE IMPROVED BECAUSE OF THE RELEASES AND WOULD BE THE SAME QUALITY AS THAT DIVERTED INTO THE EAST GHOR CANAL. ABDULLAH STATED THAT HE HAS ASKED HARZA TO PREPARE (NOT AS A PART OF THE FEASIBILITY REPORT) A SEPARATE TABLE INDICATING THE MONTH-BY-MONTH FLOWS OVER PAST YEARS FOR WHICH DATA IS AVAILABLE. HE SAID THIS TABLE COULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ISRAELIS. IN ADDITION, ABDULLAH POINTED OUT THAT ISRAELI CURRENT DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITY TO REMOVE FLOOD WATERS FROM THE YARMOUK AND STORE THEM IN TIBERIAS (VIA BEIT SHEAN-KINNERET PIPELINE) SHOULD BE EXPLOITED TO HELP MAKE UP ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REQUIREMENTS FOR TRIANGLE IRRIGATION AND THE 17 MCM FROM THE YARMOUK REFERRED TO ABOVE. GOJ ALSO BELIEVES THAT LAKE TIBERIAS, EVEN WITHOUT THIS PUMP STORAGE FEATURE FOR YARMOUK FLOOD WATER, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 01648 02 OF 03 221654Z

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED  
AS A LEGITIMATE AND RIGHTFUL SOURCE OF WATER FOR IRRIGATING THE TRIANGLE WHICH BORDERS ON THE LAKE IN THE SOUTH. IN SUM, ABDULLAH SAYS JORDAN IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE UP TO 17 MCM FOR THE TRIANGLE DURING THE PERIOD OF GREATEST NEED, IF NECESSARY THROUGH RELEASES FROM MAQARIN. ADDITIONAL FLOOD WATER (AMOUNT UNSPECIFIED UNTIL MONTHLY FLOWS OVER PAST YEARS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED) CAN BE PROVIDED FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRIANGLE. (WE ESTIMATE THAT ONLY IN A FEW YEARS ARE THESE FLOOD WATERS LIKELY IN TOTAL TO FALL BELOW 25 MCM, BUT FIGURES MUST BE RECHECKED).

AFTER SECOND DAM IS BUILT ON YARMOUK, NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED, HOPEFULLY IN CONTEXT OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE. UNTIL THAT TIME ABOVE SITUATION PREVAILS. HOWEVER, IN YEARS OF DROUGHT, WITH WATER FLOWS BELOW AVERAGE AND WHEN JORDAN MUST RATION ITSELF, SHORTAGE WOULD BE SHARED WITH ISRAELIS ON BASIS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IRRIGATION REQUIREMENTS ON BOTH SIDES (I.E. THE ADASSIYAH TRIANGLE VS. EAST GHOR).

6. THE JORDANIANS WOULD LIKE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY ELEMENTS OF THEIR POSITION ON THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH: WHAT IS THE TOTAL AREA BEING IRRIGATED IN THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE? WHAT IS THE TOTAL (AND IN CUBIC METERS PER HECTARE) WATER REQUIREMENT BY MONTH? WHAT ARE CURRENT SOURCES (YARMOUK, TIBERIAS, WELLS AND SPRINGS IN AND OUTSIDE OF TRIANGLE) AND THEIR AMOUNTS AVAILABLE TO MEET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS? THE ANSWER TO LAST QUESTION SHOULD QUANTIFY THE WATER TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE YARMOUK, AS WELL AS FROM YARMOUK WATER STORED AT THE POWER POOL AND IN TIBERIAS. WHILE THE JORDANIANS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUEST IT, WE BELIEVE FIGURES ON CURRENT AND PROJECTED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 AMMAN 01648 02 OF 03 221654Z

CROPPING PATTERNS ALSO WOULD BE USEFUL.

7. DIVERSION TO EAST GHOR CANAL. THE JORDANIANS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN ISRAELI VIEWS ON THEIR INTENTION OR HOPE TO BUILD A DIVERSION WEIR AT THE EAST GHOR CANAL INTAKE. ACCORDING TO ABDULLAH A DROP INLET IS AT BEST ONLY 90 PERCENT AS EFFICIENT AS A WEIR. TO ASSURE SUFFICIENT WATER TO THE EAST GHOR WITHOUT SUCH A DIVERSION FACILITY WOULD REQUIRE ADDING TO THE HEIGHT OF THE DAM ITSELF, A MUCH MORE COSTLY ALTERNATIVE. IF ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE THROUGH INFORMAL U.S. GOOD AUSPICES THE JORDANIANS WOULD LIKE TO BUILD THE WEIR AS SOON AS CONSTRUCTION MAQARIN BEGINS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01648 03 OF 03 221710Z  
ACTION AID-59

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SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
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INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 AMMAN 1648

THEY FEEL IT WOULD IMMEDIATELY BENEFIT BOTH SIDES. THE WEIR WOULD PROVIDE BETTER WATER CONTROL AND MEASUREMENT, WHICH THEY STATE MIGHT BE POSSIBLY ACCOMPLISHED AUTOMATICALLY. THE WATER QUALITY OF COURSE REMAINS THE SAME FOR BOTH SIDES. TO CONSTRUCT IT, THE JORDANIANS WOULD NEED FREE ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SPACE (PERHAPS A RADIUS OF 100 METERS AROUND THE SITE ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE YARMOUK LOCATED PRESENTLY IN THE ISRAELI OCCUPIED SOUTHERN DEMILITARIZED ZONE AND NON-OPPOSITION TO GOJ ACCESS FOR PURPOSES OF THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WEIR. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN OF THIS LAND REQUIREMENT, BUT IT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANT IN AMOUNT; NOR FROM OUR KNOWLEDGE HERE DOES THE LAND APPEAR NOW OR IN THE FUTURE TO HAVE ALTERNATIVE USES. THE JORDANIANS WOULD BE PREPARED THROUGH THE U.S. TO PROVIDE (WHEN PREPARED) CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS AND DETAILS OF WEIR. THE JORDANIANS WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO ESTABLISH A SIGNED BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT FURTHER THROUGH OUR CHANNELS IN HOPES AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED. (FYI WE ASSUME CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 01648 03 OF 03 221710Z

SUCH A BILATERAL COULD BE PART OF A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT).

8. DISCUSSION REVEALED THAT DISTRIBUTION OF HARZA'S DRAFT OF FINAL REPORT MAY SLIP TO END APRIL INSTEAD OF MID-APRIL PER PARA 3 REF (A). FYI: ABDULLAH AND ODEH PLAN TO BE IN CHICAGO ABOUT APRIL 4 TO REVIEW THE REPORT BEFORE IT IS DISTRIBUTED. ANY CHANGES AT THAT POINT COULD DELAY ITS PRINTING A FEW DAYS. WE

WILL SUGGEST THEY STOP IN WASHINGTON AFTER CHICAGO.  
END FYI.

9. WITH REGARD TO PARA 6E REF A, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PARA COULD BE INTERPRETED AS IMPLYING THAT YARMOUK WATERS ALONE WOULD SATISFY SUBSTANTIAL WEST BANK NEEDS. IT IS CLEAR THE JORDANIANS BELIEVE THIS REQUIREMENT CAN BE MET FULLY ONLY IF THE 100 MCM FROM TIBERIAS MENTIONED IN THE JOHNSON PLAN IS AVAILABLE, ALONG WITH THE NON-SALINE SPRING WATERS IN THE WEST BANK ITSELF. WE NEED NOT MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OF THIS NOW, BUT IT PROBABLY SHOULD BE STATED FOR THE RECORD.

10. ABDULLAH REPEATED THE REQUEST MENTIONED IN PARA 7A REF A FOR ISRAELI DATA RELATING TO DEAD SEA LEVELS AND WATERQUALITY. HE ALSO ASKED FOR AS COMPLETE A DESCRIPTION AS POSSIBLE ON THE BAR LEV TUNNEL PROPOSAL FOR PUTTING MEDITERRANEAN SEA WATER INTO DEAD SEA.

11. NEXT STEPS. WE WOULD PREFER TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS BY SENDING USAID CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, T. A. PEARSON, TO JERUSALEM TO MEET WITH KANTOR OR HIS ASSOCIATES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HAVING DISCUSSED THE MATTERS IN DEPTH HERE, PEARSON WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE  
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PAGE 03 AMMAN 01648 03 OF 03 221710Z

CONSIDERABLY TO THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES AND DEVELOP A FIRST-HAND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISRAELI POSITION. WE WONDER IF KANTOR COULD BE PERSUADED TO DELAY HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE FOR THIS IMPORTANT INTERIM STEP. IF NOT, (SINCE REF C IMPLIES HE MAY ALREADY HAVE DEPARTED JERUSALEM) WE WONDER IF SOME OF KANTOR'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES MIGHT MEET WITH PEARSON AND JOIN KANTOR IN WASHINGTON LATER. WE WOULD ASSUME THAT EMBASSY TEL AVIV OFFICER WOULD ACCOMPANY PEARSON DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KANTOR. IF PEARSON VISIT NOT FEASIBLE WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY TEL AVIV ADVISE KANTOR OR HIS ASSOCIATES OF THE CONTENT OF PARAS 2 THROUGH 7 ABOVE SO THAT KANTOR CAN BRING TO WASHINGTON DATA AND INFORMATION REGARDING MONTHLY WATER REQUIREMENTS OF YARMOUK TRIANGLE AND REPORT ON INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE REGARDING JORDANIAN NEED AND DESIRE TO CONSTRUCT DIVERSION WEIR AT EAST GHOR CANAL INTAKE. BROADER DISCUSSION OF ISSUES CAN THEN TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON DURING KANTOR'S VISIT.

12. FOR TEL AVIV: REQUEST ADVICE IMMEDIATE  
ON ABOVE AND GIVE DATE WHEN KANTOR OR ASSOCIATES COULD  
MEET WITH PEARSON. EMBASSY WILL OBTAIN GOJ PERMISSION FOR  
EXPEDITIOUS PEARSON BRIDGE CROSSING AND HOPE GOI CAN DO  
SAME.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, ECRE, ENRG, JO, IS, US, XF  
**To:** STATE TEL AVIV  
**Type:** TE  
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